



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

# Public Liaison e-News

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## Voice Your Opinion On World Affairs...

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will host the G-20 Summit September 24-25, 2009. President Obama will chair this meeting of leaders from countries around the world who will review the progress made since the Washington and London Summits and discuss further actions to assure a sound and sustainable recovery from the global financial and economic crisis. -[Summit Website](#)

## Dates to Remember

August 21 -- Ramadan begins (ends 9/19)  
August 30 -- Presidential Elections in Gabon;  
General Elections in Japan  
August 31 -- 3rd World Climate Conference  
(Geneva) (through 9/4)  
September 8 -- Presidential Elections in  
Indonesia-2nd Round

# International

## Iraq Bombings

*"These attacks are the reprehensible acts of extremists who continue to attempt to ignite violence between people who desire to live in peace despite being from different sectarian and ethnic groups. We reiterate the Iraqi Government's call that those individuals or groups responsible for these horrific acts will be pursued and brought to justice in accordance with Iraqi law. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the injured and to the families of those innocent Iraqis killed in these attacks."*

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Washington, DC, August 17, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 17** -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton released a statement condemning the bombings that have taken place over the past several weeks in various places across Iraq. "In particular we condemn the repeated targeting of Shi'a places of worship and most recently ethnic Shabak and Yezidi villages in Ninewa province," she said. [Read More: Full Statement](#)

## Upcoming Elections in Afghanistan

*"In three days' time, the Afghan people will go to the polls to elect a President and new Provincial Councils. This election day will not be without its challenges, but the Afghan people have seen unparalleled campaigning, debate and dialogue in their country. ... The Afghan people should be commended for their courage in conducting this election despite the stresses of wartime, and we and the international community are proud to support them."*



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton  
Washington, DC, August 17, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 17** -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton released a statement regarding the upcoming presidential elections in Afghanistan. Secretary Clinton commended the Afghanistan people for their courage and expressed the United States' nonpartisan support for the election process. "Like the Afghan people we want to see credible, secure and inclusive elections that all will judge legitimate," she said. [Read More](#)

## Security Situation in Pakistan

**KARACHI, PAKISTAN, Aug. 19 --** Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan participated in a press conference, in which he discussed the Security Situation in Pakistan.

**SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE HOLBROOKE:** It is a different kind of war with a different kind of enemy, an enemy that straddles the border of both countries and poses equal threats to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States. We have a common enemy and a common task and a common challenge. And we are absolutely pleased at the success of the Pakistani army has had in Swat and Buner and elsewhere in recent weeks and we are deeply impressed with the return of so many refugees so quickly. Nobody expected two months ago that so many refugees would go home so quickly. So we will continue to make efforts to succeed in Afghanistan, we have made a lot of progress lately in both Afghanistan and Pakistan but as I said we recognize that a purely military solution is neither likely nor necessary. And so in her speech on July 15th in Washington the Secretary of State said that she recognized that the majority of the people fighting with the Taliban are not committed to an ideological cause, they fight for other reasons, for a gun or money or because they don't have a job or for an injustice committed against them by, perhaps some corrupt policeman. [View Video](#)



### U.S. Special Envoy Gration Witnesses Bilateral Agreement in Sudan

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 19 --** U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan Scott Gration witnessed the initialing of a bilateral agreement in Juba, Southern Sudan, between representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the ruling National Congress Party on advancing implementation of the Comprehensive Peace

Agreement (CPA). General Gration served as a facilitator and mediator in discussions between the two parties over the past three months as they worked through outstanding and unimplemented portions of the CPA.

The agreement initialed on August 19, 2009 will be forwarded to Sudan's Presidency for final ratification, and commits the National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement to a series of timed benchmarks for implementing key aspects of the CPA, including border demarcation and election preparation. Despite the significant progress made to date, the parties have been unable to reach agreement on several issues. For this reason, Special Envoy Gration will continue to act in his role as facilitator of this trilateral process and has agreed to return to Juba in early September for another round of consultations between the two parties. [Read More](#)

### Secretary Clinton Travel to Africa: August 3-14, 2009

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton embarked upon a seven-nation trip to Africa beginning August 3 and ending on August 14, 2009. She began her journey at the 8th U.S. – Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (known as the AGOA Forum) in Nairobi, Kenya.



This trip highlighted the Obama administration's commitment to making Africa a priority in U.S. foreign policy. Secretary Clinton's trip to Africa was the earliest in any U.S. administration that both the President and the Secretary of State have visited Africa. Following the AGOA Forum, the Secretary also traveled to [South Africa](#), [Angola](#), the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), [Nigeria](#), [Liberia](#), and [Cape Verde](#).

[Read More: Secretary Clinton Travel](#)

## Inside the Beltway

### Minneapolis Passport Agency Inaugurated

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 18 --** The Minneapolis Passport Agency, which opened its doors on May 18, 2009, was inaugurated August 18, 2009 by United States Senator Amy Klobuchar, Under Secretary of State for Management Patrick F. Kennedy, and Janice L. Jacobs, Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. The Minneapolis

### U.S. and Egypt: Working Together Through Great Challenges

*"The United States and Egypt have worked together closely for many years, and for many of those years President Mubarak has been a leader and a counselor and a friend to the United States. We obviously have a lot of great challenges that have to be dealt with and we are continuing to work together to find those areas where we can find common ground and to work in concert to bring peace and security*



Passport Agency is located in downtown Minneapolis at 212 South Third Avenue. The Agency is the 21st passport issuance facility in the United States and is one of 17 passport agencies open to the public. The Agency will greatly improve the Department's ability to meet the travel needs of citizens who reside in states along the U.S.-Canada border. In less than three months of operation, the Agency has issued more than 17,000 passports. [Read More](#)

to the region."

President Barack Obama  
Washington, DC, August 18, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 18 --** President Barack Obama welcomed Egyptian president Mohamed Hosni Mubarak to the White House for the first time since taking office. President Obama thanked Egyptian President Mubarak for his support during his visit to Cairo earlier this year. The two leaders discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict, nuclear nonproliferation issues, and how we can work together on economic development, education, health and other issues that can promote the interests of both the American and Egyptian people. [Read More](#)

## Global Issues Affecting the Nation

### Commemoration of World Humanitarian Day

*"Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 to increase public awareness about humanitarian activities around the world, World Humanitarian Day is also an occasion to honor aid workers who labor every day on behalf of some of the world's most vulnerable people. This day marks the sixth anniversary of the Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad in which 22 people were killed, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Secretary General's Special Representative in Iraq."*

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton  
Washington, DC, August 19, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug 19 --** Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton released a statement in honor of World Humanitarian Day (August 19). Secretary Clinton said, "The success of our collective response to humanitarian crises rests on the selfless commitment and dedication of professional humanitarian aid workers." She discussed an increase in the violence and deaths of humanitarian aid workers, and called upon all governments and parties in conflict to give their highest attention to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel. [Read More](#)

### Refugee Issues

*"Today, on World Humanitarian Day, it's my distinct honor to tell you that we are planning now to provide an additional \$160 million in support of critical international and nongovernmental efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and protection and to help create the conditions for sustainable recovery. In this case, the money will include, for example, some \$58 million for assistance in Africa, with a particular focus on Somalia displaced, the Congo, Sudan, and Chad; \$29 million for Afghan refugees and conflict victims; and some \$71 million to address critical crises in many of the other major refugee-producing regions of the world."*



Eric Schwartz, Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration  
Washington, DC, August 19, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 19 --** In honor of World Humanitarian Day (August 19) Eric P. Schwartz, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration delivered remarks at the top of the State Department's Daily Press Briefing. In his remarks, he underscored the critical importance of international humanitarian assistance, including protection of the most vulnerable populations around the world. He also noted the contributions of the individuals and the organizations engaged in the provision of international relief and humanitarian assistance, and honored the victims of those who have lost their lives in the effort to provide humanitarian assistance. [Read More](#)

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